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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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Bureau of Workers' Compensation

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George V. Voinovich, Governor

James Conrad, Administrator

July 7, 1997

Mr. Bill Suddeth
Administrative Officer - Safety
Department of Public Utilities
Division of Water Pollution Control
12302 Kirby Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44108

Dear Mr. Suddeth:

This report serves as a synopsis of the issues we discussed on July 2, 1997, when we visited the site of your Lift Station located on West 3rd in Cleveland, adjacent to the old Master Metals facility. A couple of issues are of concern and include previous potential exposures to unknown emissions emanating from the Master Metals site during maintenance activities at the lift station and emissions during current activities at this Superfund cleanup site.

Previous exposures

A couple of employees are concerned about potential exposures, occurring approximately eight years ago, that caused acute symptoms of significant upper respiratory and mucous membrane irritation and subsequent concerns with reoccurring headaches. As a first step, please consider obtaining air monitoring records from the Division of Air Pollution Control, City of Cleveland, concerning the two monitoring stations that have been in place adjacent this site for the past eight years.

Current Exposures

A visit with Mr. Erich Kissick of Entact (Site Cleanup Contractor) revealed that the site cleanup will probably continue through October of this year. The following worker exposure evaluation and protective measures were discussed:

- Obtaining current monitoring records from the Division of Air Pollution Control,
- Consulting with the Northeast Regional Sewer District on potential monitoring data of the waste water stream,
- Obtaining monitoring data from the on site monitors at the Master Metals site,
- After review of the current monitoring results, consider the necessity for further monitoring of employees exposures by the Division of Safety and Hygiene, and soil testing by Entact.
- Establishing a line of communication with Entact to coordinate scheduling of activities around any potentially hazardous activities. Mr. Erich Kissick suggested this line of communication,
- Providing your employees with personal protective equipment including a half mask respirator with High Efficiency (HEPA) filtration when needed at this site. Per our conversation, you have a respiratory protection program that includes training, medical screening and fit testing.
- evaluating the work procedures and consider those that can minimize the time necessary to be on site, such as gravel or cement in place of grass,
- Since lead, cadmium and arsenic are known to be contaminants at the Master Metal site, emphasize to employees the necessity for hand and face washing after any contact and prior to any eating, drinking or activity that may result in potential ingestion of heavy metals (a significant route of exposure),
- For any significant activity at Lift Station, provide protect clothing to prevent the contamination of street clothing. Prevent any potentially contaminated clothing from going home with and/or being washed by employees.
- Make all employees aware of the potential dangers of exposures to potential contaminants,
- Although mandatory compliance with these standards has not been established, review the OSHA stds. for Lead (1910.1025), Cadmium (1910.1027) and arsenic (1910.1018) for guidance concerning control measures.

If the Division of Safety and Hygiene can be of further assistance to you, please contact the Independence Service Office at (216) 573-7200.

Sincerely,
Timothy J. Florini
Timothy J. Florini
Industrial Hygienist